

Finally, there is a rather sentimental account concerning the author's interviews with some of the few remaining Welsh at Cardigan, and a summary of known material about all the settlers, long-term and short-term, at the Canadian settlement.

In summary, there is considerable worthwhile ethnic history here, but there is so much nonessential information that separating the wheat from the chaff seems hardly worth the effort.

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Russell Thornton, with C. Matthew Snipp and Nancy Breen. *The Cherokees: A Population History*. Indians of the Southeast Series. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990) xvi, 237 pp., \$35.00.

A first glance at the title might wrongly suggest that Thornton's volume is best relegated to demography. This is, however, a wonderful reference for historians, ethnicists, and anthropologists, as well as an engaging work well suited for the general reader in Native American topics.

In the historic section, the author shows the relative parts played by European diseases and warfare in affecting Cherokee population. He also notes in detail the decimation of the "Principal People" during the Trail of Tears (1838-39). He addresses the still current controversy regarding estimates of how many died as a direct result of the Removal. Thornton hews to the estimate of two to four thousand out of a proposed total population of 13,000 who made the trek. Although speculation about the varying estimates seems reasonable for this work's purpose, the author's own projections on Cherokee population had the Removal never occurred (using two different formulae) seem inappropriate. He uses projections which include "nonbirths," figures for persons who hypothetically would have been born had the disaster been averted. While this might fit well in a book targeted solely at demographers, it appears to weaken an otherwise sound discussion of the controversy.

Thornton's chronology, with careful attention to social phenomena such as intermarriage and the Removal, provides an excellent baseline for the underlying theme. The most important theme in this book is the self-definition of ethnicity, sometimes entirely individual, sometimes the result of "community recognition." The author deals diplomatically with the Cherokee Grandmother Syndrome, the role of Cherokees of African-American ancestry, and the often arbitrary assigning of blood quanta by enrollment officers. His use of national and state census data provides an enlightening comparison of Cherokee characteristics from recognized groups (Eastern Band of Cherokees, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, United Keetowah Band), non-reservation population centers (i.e. California) and

non-enrolled/self-identified Cherokees. The point the author makes about data from self-identified Cherokees (more than half the estimated total) on matters of education, employment and income skewing the overall picture is well taken.

The most effective component of the self-definition theme, not just for Native Americanists, but for ethnicists generally, is Thornton's appreciation of the process of "negotiating ethnicity." His frequent references to blood quanta (and minimums for recognition) remind the non-Indian reader that such standards are only legally imposed in the U.S. on American Indians.

Another key concept that this work addresses, albeit indirectly, is the place of urbanization in the formation of Cherokee identity. Thornton astutely recognizes the role of "voluntary removal" among modern Cherokees, seeing it as much less negative than the forced exile of an earlier era. Although noting that this widens the Cherokee diaspora, the choice to urbanize reaffirms the basic ethnic view Cherokees hold of themselves, that their cultural pride will help them keep their traditions alive wherever they go. It would be preferable if this idea had been more developed, possibly touching on more broadly defined concepts of spirit-of-place, but it is sufficient for a book with an emphasis on the interpretation of historic and modern population trends.

In summary, Russell Thornton's *The Cherokees: A Population History* is an excellent resource for ethnic studies professionals. His use of tables is particularly helpful in illustrating changes and trends. More importantly, though, he expertly synthesizes his material, placing statistics in their proper social and historic context.

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K. S. Tom. *Echoes From Old China: Life, Legends, and Lore of the Middle Kingdom*. (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1989) 160 pp., \$23.50; \$14.95 paper.

K. S. Tom provides insightful glimpses into a variety of aspects of Chinese culture. In the preface, the author states "this book provides a general introduction to Chinese customs, traditions and culture. It is by no means an exhaustive or definitive account of the topics that have been selected for discussion." This reviewer was initially distracted because of the wide range of topics covered and the lack of conclusiveness and interrelatedness among these topics. However, acknowledgement by the author that this book is an introduction to a variety of aspects of Chinese culture, rather than a conclusive analysis, encouraged this reader to review the book in light of the author's objective.

The prospective reader should not be discouraged from pursuing Tom's study because of the aforementioned shortcomings. Mainland China is a